

11. A retractable cable assembly, as used with an alarm system,

comprising;

a housing;

means for retraction contained in said housing;

a multiconductor cable, having a first end attached to a sensor attachable to a product then extending into the housing, cooperating with the retraction means and a second end extending out of the housing, said sensor having two states, 1) secured when attached to the product with at least two conductors of the cable electrically connected and 2) unsecured when detached from the product with said at least two conductors electrically disconnected;

said retraction means urging the cable into the housing and thereby urging the first end connected to [a product] the sensor to the retraction means, yet allowing the first end to be pulled from the housing when an external force is exerted on the first end, while maintaining a continuous electrical path in said at least two conductors from the first end of the cable to the second end of the cable; and

means for connecting the second end of the cable to an alarm system which detects a) [a] the secured state with the [electrical path continuous between the first and second ends of the cable] at least two conductors of the cable electrically connected and b) an unsecured state with the [continuity of the electrical path between the first and second cable ends broken] at least two conductors of the cable electrically disconnected,

whereby a user can grasp and pull on a product attached to the first cable end to place the product in a comfortable position, but if the user breaks the

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[continuity of the electrical path] electric connection of the at least two conductors of the cable the alarm system detects the unsecured state.

12. A retractable cable assembly, as used with an alarm system,
comprising:

a housing;

a cable having first and second conductors extending between opposite
first and second ends of said cable;

means for attaching said cable first end to a product;

means for electrically connecting said first and second conductors at said first end of said cable whereby 1) said first and second conductors form an alarm loop extending from said cable second end through said first conductor to said cable first end and back through said second conductor to said cable second end when said attaching means attach said cable to a product and 2) said alarm loop is broken by detaching said cable from a product;

a connector for connecting said cable second end to an alarm system responsive to any break of the alarm loop; and

a retracting mechanism in said housing continuously urging the cable first end toward the housing yet allowing the cable first end to be pulled away from the housing when an external force is exerted on the cable first end.

13. The retractable cable assembly of claim 12, wherein said retracting mechanism continuously urges the cable first end toward the housing, whereby a user

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can grasp and pull on a product attached to the cable first end to place the product
in a comfortable position with a minimum amount of cable extending from said
housing.

14. The retractable cable assembly of claim 13, wherein said retracting
mechanism comprises:

a pulley mounted for free rotation relative to said housing and including
a sensor hub and an alarm system hub separated by a disk, said disk having a hole
therein, whereby said cable extends from said cable first end into said housing where
it winds around said sensor hub then extends through said pulley disk hole and winds
about said alarm system hub then extends from said housing to said cable second
end; and

a spring continuously biasing said pulley toward winding said cable onto
said sensor hub.

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